

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 NSF-02 DLOS-06 IO-13

AGRE-00 INT-05 SAL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /084 W

-----191606Z 098403 /40

P R 191530Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL BREMEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2185

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, GW

SUBJECT: PRICES FOR FISH SPECIES TAKEN BY NON-U.S.

FISHERMEN IN THE U.S. 200-MILE ZONE

REF: STATE 001704

1. NEARLY ALL FISH CAUGHT BY GERMANS IN THE US 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE ARE ATLANTIC HERRING, TAKEN FROM ICNAF AREA 5Z. WHEN FISHING OFF THE U.S. EAST COAST, GERMAN FISHERMEN TRAWL IN MIDWATER. THEREFORE THEY CATCH VERY FEW SILVER HAKE AND ALMOST NO RED HAKE, BOTH OF WHICH ARE GROUND FISH.

2. US ATLANTIC HERRING ARE MIXED WITH HERRING FROM LABRADOR, THE FAROE ISLANDS, AND THE NORTH SEA AMONG OTHERS DURING LANDING, STORAGE AND SALE. CONSEQUENTLY US ATLANTIC HERRING LOSE THEIR IDENTITY BEFORE THEY ARE SOLD, WHICH MEANS THAT THERE ARE NO OFFICIAL OR COMMERCIAL RECORDS ON EX-VESSEL PRICES FOR HERRING TAKEN BY GERMAN FISHERMEN FROM U.S. ZONE.

3. SINCE EX-VESSEL PRICES ARE UNAVAILABLE FOR U.S. ATLANTIC HERRING, OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY FOR FOOD,  
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AGRICULTURE, AND FORESTRY HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE US BASE ITS FEE SCHEDULE ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

(A) THE FEE SCHEDULE COULD BE BASED ON THE AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL FROZEN HERRING LANDED IN GERMAN HOME PORTS BY GERMAN TRAWLER OPERATORS WHO SELL THEIR FROZEN HERRING (EITHER WHOLE, BEHEADED, OR BUTTERFLY-CUT) THROUGH A JOINT

SALES ORGANIZATION. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OFFICIALS, THE VALUE OF THE HERRING AT THE TIME OF FIRST SALE, LESS COSTS FOR PROCESSING, FREEZING, AND STORAGE SHOULD BE DIVIDED BY THE ROUND WEIGHT OF THE HERRING CATCH INSTEAD OF BY THE PRODUCT WEIGHT. MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAY THE EXISTENCE OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CONVERSION FACTORS WOULD MAKE IT EASY TO CALCULATE THE ROUND WEIGHT FROM THE LANDED WEIGHT. HOWEVER, IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE SEVERAL OR MORE WEEKS TO DETERMINE THE CONVERSION FACTOR FOR THE SALES VALUE AND THAT THE COSTS FOR PROCESSING, FREEZING, AND STORAGE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE ESTIMATED. BUT, ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OFFICIALS, THE FISHING INDUSTRY HAS ALREADY BEEN EXAMINING COSTS FOR PROCESSING, FREEZING, AND STORAGE, SINCE THE EC RPT EC NEEDS THIS INFORMATION IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT ITS COMMON FISHERY POLICY.

(B) THE MINISTRY COULD FURNISH NMFS WITH THE AVERAGE EX-VESSEL PRICE OF FRESH (ICED) HERRING LANDED BY GERMAN TRAWLERS IN THEIR HOME PORTS. SINCE THERE IS STRONG COMPETITION ON THE GERMAN MARKET BETWEEN FROZEN AND FRESH HERRING, MINISTRY OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE AVERAGE EX-VESSEL PRICE OF FRESH HERRING WOULD APPROXIMATE THE RECALCULATED PRICE OF UNPROCESSED US ATLANTIC HERRING CAUGHT BY GERMAN FISHERMEN. MINISTRY OFFICIALS REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR HERRING CAUGHT IN THE U.S. ZONE WILL BE HIGHER THAN FOR HERRING CAUGHT IN EUROPEAN WATERS. BUT THEY THINK IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THE EXACT TRANSPORTATION COST IN ORDER TO ADJUST THE EX-VESSEL PRICE, BECAUSE GERMAN FREEZER TRAWLERS USUALLY REMAIN AT SEA FOR

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ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

(C) IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTY IN CALCULATING TRANSPORTATION COSTS, MINISTRY OFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO BASE ITS FEE SCHEDULE ON THE PRICE OF ATLANTIC HERRING LANDED BY US FISHERMEN IN U.S. POSTS. IF SO, THEY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING US EX-VESSEL PRICES FOR COMPARISON WITH GERMAN PRICES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM CONGEN (AND EMBASSY) IF NMFS IS WILLING TO ACCEPT ONE OF THE GERMAN PROPOSALS, AND, IF SO, WHICH ONE. IF ALL OF THE GERMAN PROPOSALS ARE UNACCEPTABLE, MINISTRY OFFICIALS WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS FROM NMFS. SCHIFFMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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